

# South Africa, Victoria Falls, and Hwange Private Safari

FROM CAPE TOWN TO GREATER KRUGER AND HWANGE NATIONAL PARK



## WHEN TO GO

January to December

For our Private Journey trips, you choose your own group and your preferred dates—there are no set departure dates. Private Journeys are available to groups as few as two people or as large as you like. Contact us for availability, questions, or to book your adventure!

ITINERARY	3
TRIP COST, PAYMENT & INSURANCE	8
EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE	9
ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE	10
LODGING	11
TRIP DETAILS	15



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FROM CAPE TOWN TO GREATER KRUGER AND HWANGE  
NATIONAL PARK

“The guides in each city and each camp were friendly, knowledgeable, and a pleasure to deal with.”

*Jim B., Carrollton, TX*

## ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel’s escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—even if it’s just the two of you—yet still enjoy a guided adventure.

Explore the rich culture of South Africa’s Cape Town, the lush landscapes of Victoria Falls, and the astounding diversity of Greater Kruger and Hwange National Park on this private journey. Begin in colorful Cape Town with its rocky peaks, world-renowned wineries, and striking Cape Dutch architecture. Venture to an exclusive private game reserve in Greater Kruger for the ultimate in game-viewing and the chance to encounter leopard, lion, elephant, rhino, and buffalo. In Victoria Falls, walk along trails beneath the roaring thunder where optional activities include a helicopter trip over the falls and bungee jumping. Enter Hwange National Park on the Elephant Express rail car and savor some of the most incredible walking safaris in all of Africa, along with lantern-lit dinners and an optional visit to a nearby village and local school.



Wilderness Travel

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# Itinerary

## DAY 1

### CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Upon arrival in Cape Town, you are met and transferred to your hotel. Long regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Cape Town is southern Africa's most romantic city. Few cities in the world can match its splendid setting along the spine of the mountainous Cape Peninsula. The view of the Cape that entranced early mariners over the centuries is still here—a spectacular amphitheater formed by Devil's Peak, Table Mountain, and Lion's Head to the west. The summit plateau provides breathtaking views of Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula, and at night in the summer months, the mountain is floodlit. This lively city today is also a rare cultural gem, an amalgamation of African, Indonesian, French, Dutch, British, and German cultures. Overnight at hotel...Meals on your own

Classic Accommodation: Victoria and Alfred Hotel

Optional Upgrade: Cape Grace Hotel

(See Lodging section for photos and descriptions)

## DAYS 2-3

### CAPE TOWN

Your program in Cape Town includes your choice of two of the following full-day private guided options, one each day. The minimum participation is two persons. Dinners on your own and overnights in Cape Town...BL each day

**Full-Day Cape Peninsula / Table Mountain:** Enjoy a morning of exploring the spectacular Cape Peninsula, the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, and Cape Point itself, where the Cape Point lighthouse stands on top of sea cliffs at the very tip of the African continent. Visit the Boulders Penguin Colony, home to a growing colony of rare African penguins. After lunch, take the cable car (weather permitting) up world-famous Table Mountain for incredible views of the city and Table Bay. This mountain is one of the most spectacular urban geographic features in the world and also an incredible environment for hundreds of species of endemic flora. Descent is also by cable car. Note that the order of this program may be reversed. A visit to the National Botanical Gardens at Kirstenbosch, where 10,000 species are cultivated on 1,000 acres, can be substituted for Table Mountain.

**Full-Day Shark Dive:** Enjoy a day in famed Shark Alley for the thrill of a "cage dive" to view magnificent Great White sharks from underwater (no dive experience necessary). You begin with an early morning start and a two-hour drive to Gansbaai, where you have breakfast and an orientation on arrival. A 30-minute boat ride then takes you to Shark Alley, a shallow channel that is the world's best place to see Great White sharks. The skipper anchors the boat and baits the sharks, and you have the opportunity to view from the deck or to enter a special diving cage just below the surface. A light lunch is included, served on board. The boat returns to the dock by mid-afternoon. (Note: Shark sightings have recently become more difficult due to the presence of orcas in the area, which hunt the sharks.)



## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 11 days  
**Arrive:** Cape Town, South Africa  
**Depart:** Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe  
**Lodging:** 10 nights hotels and game lodges  
**Meals:** All meals included as noted in detailed itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)  
**Activity:** Cultural Adventures, Safaris, Walking, Wildlife and Natural History  
**Trip Level:** 1 2 3 4 5 6  
Game viewing by foot and open 4WD, walking and cultural tours

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the cuisine, culture, and stunning landscapes of South Africa's port city, Cape Town
- Track leopard and observe big game in famed Greater Kruger National Park
- Experience the thrill of Victoria Falls
- Game view by rail car, on foot, and by 4WD in Africa's hidden gem: Hwange National Park
- Wake up to birdsong in your choice of cozy accommodations



# Itinerary (cont'd)



**Full-Day Table Mountain and Winelands Visit:** En route to the wine country, take the cable car up spectacular Table Mountain (weather permitting). Descent is also by cable car. Afterwards, head out of the city to spend the rest of the day touring South Africa's centuries-old wine estates, with their beautiful Cape Dutch architecture. Visit the historic town of Stellenbosch, the oldest town in South Africa, and the Franschhoek Valley, birthplace of South Africa's wine culture, begun by the French Huguenots who founded Franschhoek in 1688. Also visit the Paarl Valley, where the Afrikaans language came from, and enjoy two wine tastings. Lunch is in the lovely town of Franschhoek. Kirstenbosch Gardens can be substituted for Table Mountain.

*"This was the best adventure of our lives! Every day had a fun first of some sort. The quality of each stay was outstanding in its own way. We felt taken care of as we moved from one location to the next without the benefit of a group. The private journey suited us very well."*

*Beth E., Shoreline, WA*

**Full-Day Langa Cultural Visit / Robben Island:** One of the most popular explorations for visitors is a tour of Langa, one of Cape Town's township outside of Cape Town. This visit offers the chance to meet and speak to some of the local people, visit their houses and shops, and learn about this community's projects, craft centers, and entrepreneurial energy. After lunch, take a boat ride out to historic Robben Island, six miles offshore in Table Bay, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for many years. The island's former role as a maximum security political prison made it notorious, but it has now has been developed as a nature reserve, museum, and poignant memorial to South Africa's long liberation struggle. Some of the guides are former political prisoners.

**Full-Day Langa Township / Table Mountain Visit:** Tour of Langa, one of Cape Town's nearby townships (as described above). After lunch, take the cable car (weather permitting) up world-famous Table Mountain for incredible views of the city and Table Bay. Descent is also by cable car. Kirstenbosch Gardens can be substituted for Table Mountain.

Please note that the Langa Township tour is not available during school holidays (call for dates); the city tour can be substituted. The Table Mountain tour is weather dependent and may not be available in the event of inclement weather. Also note it is closed every summer for two weeks at the end of July for maintenance; Kirstenbosch Garden can be substituted when Table Mountain is not available.



## DAY 4 GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Transfer to the airport for a scheduled flight to the Greater Kruger National Park, one of South Africa's great tracts of untamed gamelands. Enjoy your first game drive this afternoon. Accompanied by a professional game ranger and tracker in open 4WD safari vehicles, you have an excellent chance to encounter lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, buffalo (Africa's "Big Five"), and many other species in their natural habitat. The vehicles go off the road, when necessary, to afford you the best possible viewing. The safari continues on into the dark when spotlights are used to follow the game. As most of the predators are nocturnal, this is the best time for viewing some animal hunts. Return to your lodge for

dinner and overnight. Overnight at chosen lodge. Depending on your choice, you will fly to these specific lodges located in Timbavati Private Game Reserve, Mala Mala Game Reserve, or Sabi Sand Game Reserve... BLD

Classic Accommodation: Kambaku Safari Lodge  
Optional Upgrade: Kambaku River Sands  
Optional Upgrade: Mala Mala Game Reserve  
Optional Upgrade: Londolozi

### DAYS 5-6 GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

At your safari lodge, enjoy an abundance of wildlife and interesting bush walks as well as splendid food, good wines, dinners by candlelight, and an intimate atmosphere. Typically there are two game drives a day. The first is early in the morning, when the wildlife is the most active, after which you return to camp for brunch and time to freshen up. Following afternoon tea, you set out on a second game drive that lasts until dusk, with a stop at a scenic spot for sundowners before returning to the lodge for dinner. Being on private land means there are few restrictions on bushwalks, game drives, or night drives. You can off-road with your tracker-guide as much as you like. Overnights at chosen lodge...BLD each day

### DAY 7 VICTORIA FALLS

After a final morning game drive (time permitting), transfer to the airport for a flight to Livingstone, Zambia. On arrival, transfer to your hotel. The afternoon is free to enjoy optional activities. The huge Zambezi River is more than a mile



“The Standout [guide] at Kambaku Game Lodge in South Africa was Jay Jay, our “Ranger”. He was outstanding in every way and his passion for his work was apparent. Being with Jay Jay was the highlight of our trip.”

*Diana S., Lafayette, CA*



## Itinerary (cont'd)



“We had a spectacular time and Wilderness Travel did a wonderful job of organizing, hiring local guides, getting us where we needed to be.”

*John S., Lafayette, CA*

wide when it drops 300 feet into a sheer chasm to create its thundering cascade. Above the falls, the river is placid with palm-fringed islands and rainforested banks. In 1860, David Livingstone was the first Westerner to report the falls' existence, and since then, it has attracted visitors from around the world. Activities available at extra cost include the popular 15-minute helicopter ride over the falls, guided walk along the falls, a day of exciting whitewater action on the Zambezi (extra day needed for this option), and for the fearless—bungee jumping from the 300-foot-high Victoria Falls Bridge, with the falls as a backdrop...B

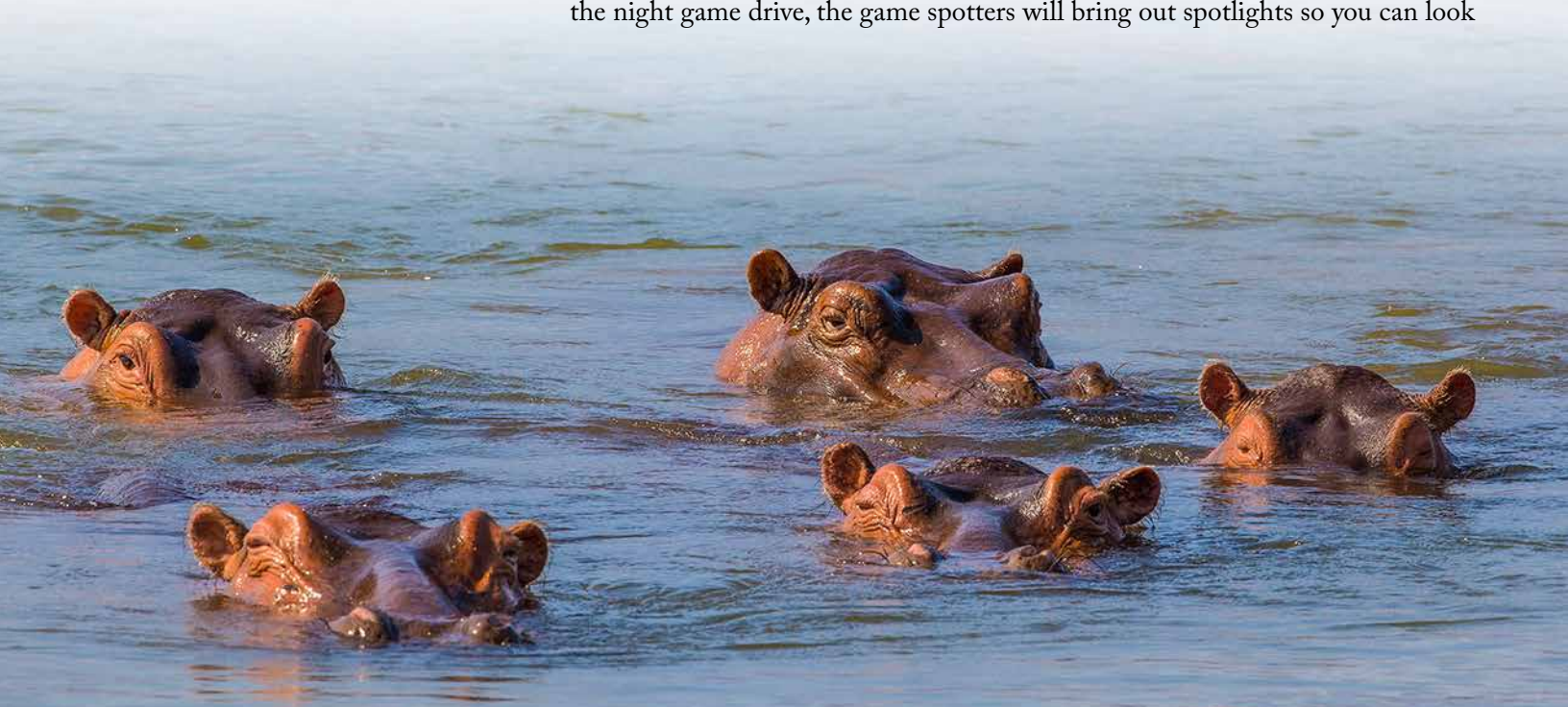
Classic Accommodation: Ilala Lodge

Optional Upgrade: Victoria Falls Hotel

### DAY 8

#### VICTORIA FALLS / HWANGE, ZIMBABWE

Spanning some 5,600 square miles, Hwange National Park is both the first (founded in 1928) and largest park in the nation. It is home to some of the highest concentrations of elephant on the planet (around 44,000) along with lion, leopard, and buffalo, and it's world famous as a birding destination. This morning we enter this great park a unique way—aboard a vintage open-air railway car called the Elephant Express. The 2.5-hour train journey glides along the historic track built in 1904 by Cecil Rhodes, and you'll enjoy exciting game viewing in comfort, along with snacks and drinks on board. You will disembark at Ngamo and head to your lodge, Bomani Tented Lodge or Camelthorn Lodge. Set in a small patch of pristine woodlands on the edge of the Ngamo Plains, these community-based lodges help support local schools and water projects. In the late afternoon, head out for a 4WD game drive, followed by the safari tradition of "sundowner" drinks in a beautiful location at sunset. During the night game drive, the game spotters will bring out spotlights so you can look



for nocturnal animals on the way back to the lodge. Dinner and overnight at Bomani or Camelthorn Lodge...BLD

Classic Accommodation: Bomani Tented Lodge or Camelthorn Lodge

## DAY 9

### HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

Wake up to morning birdsong and set out for an optional early game walk, a great way to experience Hwange on foot and see the small details of the bush, such as birds' nests and game tracks. Or you can enjoy a morning and an afternoon game drive (or a full-day game drive) in open-air vehicles. Elephant, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, and impala are often seen in these parts, making for an exhilarating day in the bush. June–October is the dry season and wildlife frequents the waterholes, enhancing game viewing opportunities. We'll have tables and chairs set up for a picnic lunch overlooking the Mfagazaan Pan and watch as the animals make their way across the dry plains for a drink of fresh water. A leisurely late afternoon drive from pan to pan brings us back to the lodge, weaving our way between throngs of elephants. After dinner at the lodge, we enjoy a nightcap by the campfire, sharing stories and photos of the day's excursions. Overnight at lodge...BLD

## DAY 10

### HWANGE NATIONAL PARK / CULTURAL VISIT

A memorable cultural opportunity is in store this morning (optional). Head to nearby Ngunyana village and join the local school children on their walk from the village to their school. On arrival at the school, you will be welcomed with a wonderful singing performance by the kids. Following this, you interact with them as they try to teach you a few words of Ndebele, their tribal "click" language! It's always fun and the teachers encourage the interaction as a way for the children to meet people from all over the world and learn about different cultures. After the school visit, head over to a local homestead to see the typical daily activities at the village. Your late afternoon game drive brings you to a specially built underground game-viewing blind at Stoffie's Pan, where you will enjoy sundowners and ground-level viewing of thirsty elephants. The blind is furnished with comfortable seating and a bathroom. Tonight head out on a night drive, looking for nocturnal species that prowl the plains after twilight. Dinner will be served en route, bush-style, beneath the spectacular star-lit sky. Overnight at lodge...BLD

## DAY 11

### HWANGE/ VICTORIA FALLS

Transfer to the local airstrip for your flight back to Victoria Falls. Depart on your homebound flight...B



“Hotels were excellent—particularly Londolozi which we paid an upgrade for. We now believe that it was worth the significant additional expense both because of the quality of the hotel, the quality of the guides and the experience of being in a private game reserve where there is more flexibility on what guides can do.”

*Charles H., Summit, NJ*



# Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

## TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2024**

\$7995 (2-10 members)

Single supplement: \$990

Internal airfare: \$1590 (subject to change)

*Prices are based on double occupancy and not guaranteed until services are confirmed.*

## Make it Your Trip!

The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure outlined in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option that has been handcrafted by our Area Specialists to include the best of every destination. While many travelers choose to book this tour as is, our Area Specialists are also happy to work with you to customize this Private Journey to suit your specific interests and style of travel. We can arrange for longer or shorter stays, offer hotel upgrades (see below for sample costs), or add an extension to additional places of interest. We can even add special activities or customize excursions depending on your interests. We invite you to contact us to discuss your options!

## Optional Hotel Upgrades

*All upgrade pricing is per person, per night, based on double occupancy. Please call for single occupancy pricing.*

Cape Town: Cape Grace Hotel, from \$190

Timbavati Game Reserve: Kambaku River Sands, from \$250

Sabi Sand Game Reserve: Londolozi, from \$890

Mala Mala Private Game Reserve: Mala Mala Game Reserve, from \$890

Victoria Falls: Victoria Falls Hotel, from \$75

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Accommodations as noted
- Choice of two full-day guided excursions in Cape Town
- All meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Land and internal air transportation as noted
- Park entrance fees
- Airport transfers as noted
- Services of safari guides and camp staff

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, meals not specified (BLD) in this itinerary, any activities described as optional, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, pre-trip expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas; and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

## SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended since accommodations often sell out far in advance. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Africa Manager or email [africa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:africa@wildernesstravel.com) with any questions that you may have about this trip. To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred dates of travel. We will then check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your adventure. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time, we must collect your initial deposit or accommodations will be released. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a letter of confirmation, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet with information to help you prepare for your adventure. Please see our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for specific payment information.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Upon trip confirmation	25% of trip cost
90 days prior to departure	Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: 25% of trip cost

90 days or less: 100% of trip cost

\*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

[www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/travel-insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/travel-insurance)



# Extend Your Adventure!

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To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our *South Africa, Victoria Falls, and Hwange Private Safari* webpage and click on the "Extensions" tab: [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/south-africa/south-africa-hwange-private-journey/extensions](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/south-africa/south-africa-hwange-private-journey/extensions)

## OKAVANGO DELTA SAFARI EXTENSION

The 800-mile-long Okavango—the river that never finds the sea—is rightfully considered one of the most incredible wilderness sanctuaries in Africa. Its inland delta system is the largest in the world, 8,000 square miles filled with water channels, lagoons, swamps, and islands. Apart from the outstanding beauty of the wetland habitat, this unique area supports and sustains a huge diversity of fauna and flora so that game viewing is excellent throughout the year, with elephants congregating along the lagoons and waterways and impala, wildebeest, red lechwe, zebra, giraffe, sable, and buffalo found on the game-rich floodplains, along with their predators—lion, leopard, cheetah, and hyena.

*4 days. From \$4795.*



## GORILLA TRACKING IN RWANDA'S PARC NATIONAL DES VOLCANS EXTENSION

Join your ranger-guide for the exhilarating experience of tracking and observing the mountain gorilla clans that reside in the spectacular montane forests of Parc National des Volcans, where researcher Dian Fossey was based for 13 years. The hiking terrain ranges in altitude from 3,800 to 8,500 feet and preserves one of the largest natural forests in East Africa.

*5 days. From \$3395.*

# Lodging

## DAYS 1 TO 3 (3 NIGHTS): CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

In Cape Town, we stay at one of the following hotels, based on availability and choice of accommodation:



### THE VICTORIA AND ALFRED HOTEL

Built in 1904 as the North Quay Warehouse and converted in 1990 to a hotel, the V&A is just a few minutes' walk from the shops, bars, and restaurants of the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. It offers well-appointed rooms, a spa, a small gym, and an outdoor pool and bar. Breakfast and lunch are served al fresco on the terrace.



### CAPE GRACE HOTEL (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

The Cape Grace has understated elegance and a unique location on its own private quay on the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. Not surprisingly, it is a member of the prestigious Small Luxury Hotels of the World. The rooms and common areas are very stylish, the staff is superbly trained, and there are wonderful views of the harbor, marina, and Table Mountain. This hotel is extraordinary for its tasteful decor and exceptional location. Readers of Condé Nast Traveler voted the Cape Grace “the best hotel in the world” in the magazine’s Readers’ Choice Awards.

## DAYS 4 TO 6 (3 NIGHTS): GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

In the Greater Kruger National Park, we stay at one of the following camps, based on availability and choice of accommodation:



### KAMBAKU SAFARI LODGE

Kambaku Safari Lodge is set on the wild savannas of Timbavati Private Game Reserve, a vast and magnificent stretch of private game lands bordering Kruger National Park. There are no fences between Timbavati and Kruger, so the animals move freely between the reserves. The lodge has eight lovely thatched rooms with four-poster beds, en suite bathrooms, and private verandas. When you're not out searching for game with the Trip Leader and your expert Shangaan spotter, you can watch wildlife right from the lodge's dining room or from your private veranda. Leisurely brunches are served on the veranda or around the pool, and guests are often entertained by the resident warthog family on the lawn. The lodge is entirely solar powered, adding to its green footprint. Dinners are lighted by the Milky Way, a bonfire, and lanterns. The name Kambaku is the Shangaan word for "solitary bull elephant," a tribute to the seven famous big tuskers who roamed Kruger during the last century.



### KAMBAKU RIVER SANDS (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

Set in the heart of Timbavati Game Reserve, Kambaku River Sands lies along the banks of a dry riverbed, and since the camp is unfenced, you'll enjoy watching a variety of wildlife as they amble through. Ten thatched cottages offer private viewing decks, canopy beds, and a private bath with spa tub and double shower (and outside shower!). The main lodge features a lounge with two huge fireplaces, ideal places to relax on cool winter nights. There's also a spa with swimming pool, sauna, and gym.



### LONDOLOZI (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

Londolozi, meaning "protector of all living things" in Zulu, was the first game reserve in the world to be accorded Relais & Chateaux status. The camp started as a hunting lodge in the 1920s and it is one of the most deluxe safari accommodations in Africa, setting the standards for decor, luxury, and personal service. Londolozi has been named Top Safari Resort in Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards. Lodging at Londolozi is divided into five distinct camps. For your Private Journey, we book either Varty Camp or Founder's Camp (depending on availability) with eight chalets or seven chalets, respectively. Londolozi's luxurious chalets featuring striking African designs, canopied beds, and inlaid mosaic floors. The chalets are air-conditioned and have elegant bathrooms that include a grand bathtub with a wonderful view. The service is excellent, from the restaurant staff to the wonderful rangers and trackers that accompany you on the game drives. Dinners are served under the stars in the large boma (enclosed outdoor area). With over 40,000 acres of private land to explore and an unfenced border with famous Kruger National Park, the "big five" gameviewing is out of this world. Leopard sightings are famous here and it's thrill to photograph these beautiful creatures as they prowl the bush and lounge in the tree limbs.

# Lodging (cont'd)

## DAYS 4 TO 6 (3 NIGHTS): GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA (CONT'D)



### MALA MALA GAME RESERVE (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

One of South Africa's original safari venues and still one of the finest, Mala Mala retains an authentic safari camp atmosphere amid shady trees and lawns overlooking the Sand River. Mala Mala Main Camp has eight suites and ten rooms. Guest rooms are large, thatch-roofed, air-conditioned bungalows with his and her bathrooms and high ceilings. Dinner is served under the stars in the boma (enclosed outdoor area), a Mala Mala tradition for over 60 years. Of course, the wildlife viewing is world class here. With 33,000 acres of private land and an unfenced border with the world-renowned Kruger National Park, Mala Mala Private Game Reserve gets you close to some of the most amazing animals in the world. The swimming pool by the river is a pleasant place to relax between game drives.

## DAY 7 (1 NIGHT): VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

In Victoria Falls, we stay at one of the following hotels, based on availability and choice of accommodation:



### ILALA LODGE

The family-operated Ilala Lodge is a relaxing hotel with an ideal location just minutes from spectacular Victoria Falls. Perfectly manicured gardens and thatched roofs set the scene as you are welcomed into the open-air lobby. Guest rooms have nice beds and all rooms have access to the central garden area. There is a pool if you wish to take a refreshing dip, or you can unwind on your patio. The award-winning Palm Restaurant is also located at the hotel, which offers views of the falls. Keep an eye out for local wildlife—warthogs and impala are known to graze on the hotel's lawn.



### VICTORIA FALLS HOTEL (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

The stately Victoria Falls Hotel is a "grand dame" with a true British colonial ambiance, from its manicured gardens to its renowned elegant afternoon tea service. It was built in 1905 and is just a 15-minute walk from Victoria Falls. The halls, reading rooms, photos lining the walls, and grand terrace offer a vivid sense of a bygone era, and guest rooms, with en suite bathrooms, are furnished in period pieces. The service is exceptional at this classic hotel.

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## DAYS 8 TO 10 (3 NIGHTS): HWANGE NATIONAL PARK, ZIMBABWE

In Hwange National Park, we stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:



### BOMANI TENTED LODGE

Bomani offers nine spacious tents set on wooden decks overlooking the Ngamo Plain and the lodge's waterhole. All have private en suite bathrooms, hot running water, and electricity by diesel/solar generator. The main lodge overlooking Bomani Pan has an open-air dining room and bar built on a spectacular viewing platform. Bomani is community-based, helping support local schools and water projects, and the lodge's atmosphere achieves the perfect mix of luxury and “wildness.”



### CAMELTHORN LODGE

Tucked in the forested fringes of southern Hwange National Park, Camelthorn Lodge is the perfect place to experience life in the bush without sacrificing comfort. The main lodge has a community dining area and buffet station for breakfast, yet you can also enjoy your meals beneath the lodge's namesake camelthorn tree. Eight villas are designed to stay cool in the warmer months and cozy during the colder months with tall ceilings, large stone and tiled bathrooms, and each has a private viewing deck with a hammock so you can unwind beneath a canopy of acacia trees, watching an abundance of birdlife—and small woodland creatures—right from your room.

# Arrival & Departure

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Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

## ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

Cape Town, South Africa (airport code CPT), is the starting point for the trip. Upon arrival in Cape Town, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

At the end of the trip on Day 11, you are transferred by scheduled charter from Hwange to the Victoria Falls Airport in time to connect to your flight to Johannesburg (JNB). This flight will be booked by Wilderness Travel.

## AIR TRAVEL TO SOUTH AFRICA

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from South Africa. Airlines with the most convenient schedules for this trip include:

### South African Airways

Phone: 800-722-9675  
[www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com)

### Emirates

[www.emirates.com](http://www.emirates.com)  
Phone: 800-777-3999

### British Airways

Phone: 800-247-9297  
[www.ba.com](http://www.ba.com)

### Delta/KLM Airlines

Phone: 800-225-2525  
[www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)  
[www.klm.com](http://www.klm.com)

British Air has a more spacious economy class that is an inexpensive alternative to business class called “World Traveler Plus”

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito’s website at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the U.S. one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the U.S. Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers

## FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

Trip members are responsible for making their own arrangements for air transportation. Please do not purchase your airline tickets until you are confirmed on the trip and have reviewed your proposed air schedule with our office. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so that we can send it on to the local guide (make sure to include your Trip Name and Trip Dates on it). Note: The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly; otherwise you may be denied boarding. Please remember this when reserving your flights. In addition, your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US (in most cases).

# Trip Details

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated Level 2, easy to moderate. It is a luxury camping and lodge safari with game viewing by 4WD vehicle and can be enjoyed by anyone in reasonably good health. On safari, there are long driving days over rough roads and rugged dirt tracks. Guided bush walks are available and they take place at a moderate pace.

## WEATHER

The lodges on this program offer excellent game viewing year round. Game viewing is often at its best from the end of March to the end of August, the drier season, when vegetation becomes sparser, causing greater animal congregations around waterholes. Most rainfall occurs usually between December and February in the form of afternoon or evening thunderstorms. In general, there is a warm climate with cool nights in “winter” (March–August in the Southern Hemisphere).

Cape Town’s peak season is September to March, with highs of 65F in September up to 80F in February. September to February, there is little rain. Southeasterly winds occur in November and early December. In the cooler months, the daily highs are in the mid-60s. The highest rainfall is in July and August. For those who are interested in the shark diving option, the best season is May to August, and the intermediate season is March/April and September/October. At Victoria Falls, the months of May to September are like Mediterranean summers, with warm, sunny days and cool nights. Frosts at night are not uncommon. Most of the rain comes between October and April in the form of afternoon thunderstorms.

## ZIMBABWE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

To combat hunger in Zimbabwe, Wilderness Travel, along with your assistance, supports school lunch programs at two rural schools bordering Hwange National Park. The funds raised are used to buy maize meal (corn meal), red sugar beans and sunflower oil, which are then used to prepare the Zimbabwean staple food sadza. Each school serves three

to five nearby villages and the program lasts around four months across the hardest and coldest part of the year. The cost per plate is roughly \$.10, meaning a donation of just \$50 will feed 500 students! We encourage you to support this program with an optional \$50 per person donation, which will appear on your final invoice. Thank you!

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Africa Manager or email us at [africa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:africa@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We’d be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel’s escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—even if it’s just the two of you—yet still enjoy a guided adventure.

## TOUCAN CLUB / TRAVEL AGENTS

Please note that travel agent commissions and Toucan Club discounts do not apply for our Private Journeys. However, your participation on these trips will count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel’s regular expeditions. For more information regarding our Toucan Club bonus program, please visit our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cape Town	76/63	76/63	74/59	70/55	65/51	64/50	62/48	63/50	65/51	70/55	71/58	74/60
Victoria Falls	89/70	88/68	89/67	85/60	80/51	77/48	76/47	80/49	80/49	94/69	90/70	87/70
Rainfall - Inches												
Cape Town	0.5	0.4	0.6	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.2	1.5	1.5	0.8	0.4
Victoria Falls	4.6	4.5	2.3	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.0	4.0



## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 2021, 10-time winner

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2021 & 2020

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*, 2020

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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